

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 4575

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: WITHDRAWAL OF GREEK NG OFFICERS

1. I NOTE REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE BY SOME PARTIES TO POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL AS COMPARED WITH REPLACEMENT OF GREEK OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO CYPRUS. PLEASE RECALL GOT ALSO HAS TURKISH OFFICERS WITH TMT, THOUGH NOT AS MANY AS GREEK NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS IN CYPRUS. GOG MAY BE EXPECTED TO RESIST FIRMLY SUCH WITHDRAWAL IN PRINCIPLE. IT IS USEFUL IN THIS CONNECTION TO RECALL THAT BOTH SIDES TACITLY ACQUIESCED IN PROPOSAL FOR GREEK AND TURKISH OFFICERS IN THIS CATEGORY TO SERVE WITH RESPECTIVE LOCAL FORCES.

2. IN ANY EVENT, I SHOULD POINT OUT POTENTIALLY GRAVE IMPACT OF SUCH A MOVE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL PUBLIC ORDER, INCLUDING THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF EFFORTS TO DATE TO KEEP VIOLENCE AWAY FROM TURKISH COMMUNITY. WITHDRAWAL WOULD ALSO BE VIEWED BY GOG HERE AND IN CYPRUS AS INTOLERABLE EXTERNAL PRESSURE FORCING THEM TO EXPOSE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO TURKISH THREATS. IN SUCH CASE, RESULT IN TERMS OF GREEK ATTITUDES TOWARD COUNTRIES SUPPORTING SUCH MOVE WOULD BE INCALCULABLE.

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3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THREAT OF A TURKISH INVASION

WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT PSYCHOLOGY OF ALL THE GREEK PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE OPPOSITION, AS KARAMANLIS RECENT STATEMENT REVEALED. GREEKS HAVE BITTER RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLIER TURKISH MASSACRES. IN MY VIEW, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GREEK CYPRIOT POPULATION AT THIS PARTICULAR POINT WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEE WITHDRAWAL OF GREEK OFFICERS FROM NATIONAL GUARD, GIVEN MILITARY PREPARATIONS BY TURKISH CYPRIOTS, NOT TO MENTION MAINLAND TURKISH MILITARY THREAT TO CYPRUS.

4. IF ANY PROPOSAL ALONG THESE LINES SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED, IT WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE BALANCING PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO TURKISH OFFICERS SERVING WITH TMT.
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